

SN 09/609,316

Page 2 of 9

IN THE CLAIMS

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1-105. (canceled)

106. (currently amended) Apparatus for upgrading a capability of a set top terminal (STT), the STT adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed television program signals over a cable television program delivery system, decompress a compressed television program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device, the apparatus comprising:

a STT interface, for enabling communication with the STT, wherein the STT including a first decryption module, for decrypting a television program signal encrypted according to a first encryption format;

an upgrade decryption module, for decrypting an encrypted downstream communication signal to provide thereby a compressed downstream communication signal, wherein the upgrade decryption module decrypting the downstream communication signal encrypted according to a second encryption format; and

an upgrade encryption module, for encrypting an upstream communication signal comprising audio and video data;

wherein the apparatus prepares the upstream communication signal for transmission over a transmission network of the cable television program delivery system and provides the television program and a video of the downstream communication signal for the display device.

107. (canceled)

108. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 106 ~~107~~, wherein:

the first encryption format comprises a video encryption format; and

the second encryption format comprises an audio encryption format and a video encryption format.

SN 09/609,316

Page 3 of 9

109. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 106, further comprising:
a channel decoder, for selecting a channel including at least one encrypted downstream communication signal; and
a demultiplexer, for coupling a compressed downstream communication signal to an upgrade decompression module.

110. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 109, further comprising:
an video decompressor, for decompressing the compressed downstream communication signal provided by said upgrade decryption module.

111. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 106, further comprising:
a demultiplexer, coupled to the upgrade decryption module, for demultiplexing audio and video signals from the decrypted downstream communication signal; and
a synchronizer, for synchronizing the demultiplexed audio and video signals.

112. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 106, wherein the STT includes a first processor for controlling circuitry adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed video program signals, decompress a compressed video program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device, the apparatus further comprising:

an upgrade processor, for communicating with the first processor via the STT interface, the upgrade processor controlling the upgrade decryption module and the upgrade encryption module.

113. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 106, wherein the STT is adapted to provide user interface menu imagery via the output signal.

114. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 106, wherein the apparatus is adapted to provide user interface menu imagery via the output signal.

115. (currently amended) A set top terminal (STT) architecture, comprising:

SN 09/609,316

Page 4 of 9

first circuitry adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed television program signals over a cable television program delivery system, decompress a compressed television program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device, wherein the first circuitry including a first decryptor for decrypting the television program signal encrypted according to a first encryption format; and

upgrade circuitry, adapted to increase a capability of the first circuitry by providing:

an upgrade encryptor, for encrypting an upstream communication signal comprising audio and video data; and

an upgrade decryptor, for decrypting an encrypted downstream communication signal to provide thereby a compressed downstream communication signal, wherein the upgrade decryptor for decrypting the downstream communication signal encrypted according to a second encryption format,

wherein the upgrade prepares the upstream communication signal for transmission over a transmission network of the television program delivery system; and

an interface, for enabling communication between the first circuitry and the upgrade circuitry, wherein the architecture provides the television program of the output signal and a video of the downstream communication signal for the display device.

116. (canceled)

117. (currently amended) The architecture of claim 115 ~~446~~, wherein:
the first encryption format comprises a video encryption format; and
the second encryption format comprises an audio encryption format and a video encryption format.

118. (currently amended) The architecture of claim 115 ~~446~~, comprising:
an upgrade channel decoder for selecting a channel including at least one encrypted video communication signal; and

SN 09/609,316

Page 5 of 9

an upgrade demultiplexer coupling the compressed video communication stream to an upgrade decompression module.

119. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 115, the upgrade circuitry further comprising:

a demultiplexer, coupled to the upgrade decryptor, for demultiplexing audio and video signals from the decrypted downstream communication signal; and
a synchronizer, for synchronizing the demultiplexed audio and video signals.

120. (currently amended) A set top terminal (STT) adapted to receive a data stream including a plurality of compressed television program signals over a television program delivery system, decompress a compressed television program signal and provide a corresponding output signal adapted for use by a display device, the STT comprising:

an decryption module, for decrypting an encrypted downstream communication signal to provide thereby a compressed downstream communication signal;

an encryption module, for encrypting an upstream communication signal comprising audio and video data; and

a transmitter for transmitting the upstream communication signal over a transmission network of the television program delivery system; and

a receiver for receiving the data stream including the encrypted downstream communication signal and the plurality of compressed television program signals over the transmission network of the television delivery system, wherein the STT provides a television program of the output signal and a video of the downstream communication signal for the display device.